

# The Connection



**HOPE**  
**CHURCH | RALEIGH**  
• A Congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church—EPC •  
**WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.**

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 892

June 23, 2026

*By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (rf. [Jn. 13:35](#))*

*They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. (rf. [Jn. 17:16-21](#))*

After attending a major denominational meeting, it is my typical SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) to share my thoughts with the congregation about what I saw and experienced. As many of you know, Lori and I along with Al and Elizabeth Floyd attended the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) in Denver, CO last week. This was the first GA for Lori and me, though we have been to other denominational gatherings in the past and had some idea of what to expect. Nevertheless, we were absolutely blessed by the love, camaraderie and genuine affection for all in attendance by those who led and hosted. Even the business aspect of the meetings was handled with humility, mutual respect and dignity, including those who had serious disagreements with each other over policy and content. The EPC is not a perfect organization (any more than any group can be perfect, being made up of human beings), but all those involved as delegates and denominational representatives did well in living out their Christian faith. Other denominations could take lessons.

As the highest court of our denomination, we as delegates handled some very difficult and weighty issues. It was clear to all that we have some significant divisions within our body of faith, disharmonies that are not easily set aside. “Better Together” was the theme of this year’s GA and one that is and will be tested as the next year unfolds. Some of the decisions by this year’s GA will be sent down to the presbyteries to be voted on so the jury is still out as to the permanence of these decisions. As a Session we, too, will be looking at the things approved to see what our response will be and how that will be shared with our local presbytery, the Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic. No doubt there will be a great deal of discussion going on at both the local and presbytery levels in the months to come.

Our experience at this year’s EPC GA reinforced what Lori and I had heard over the years regarding the special, loving spirit found in and exhibited by the EPC. Without question this uniqueness draws the ire of the enemy of the faith, Satan himself, who would love nothing less than to destroy such a powerful display of the light and love of Christ. It remains to be seen what the Lord has in store for our denomination, but, for sure, we know that the EPC needs our prayers for its leadership, its ministers, its elders and its missionaries. There is much to be gained in strengthening its witness and much to be lost if we allow the enemy to gain a foothold within our ranks through a lack of diligence to defend the truth or allowance of distrust to destroy the bonds that hold us together. We need to strengthen our relational ties by upholding Jesus and His love and Word to the world. Remember the words of Christ, “*If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand*” (rf. [Mk. 3:25](#) MEV) so we must do all that is necessary to solidify the foundation and reinforce the walls so that this EPC house can remain intact and strong for generations to come. Therefore, keep our denomination and all included in your prayers that God would bring healing to the separations within so that we can continue to be a shining example of the love and truth of Christ.

*Pastor Chris*

*\*All Scriptures quoted from the New American Standard version (NASB)*

# HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, June 24th  
6:30 pm

The Study on the Church and the Last Days Bible study, followed by Prayer

Sunday, June 28th  
Worship Music Practice  
@ 8:30 am

Worship @ 10:00 am  
Fellowship Time and Sunday School/  
AfterChat to follow

Wednesday, July 1st  
6:30 pm

The Study on the Church and the Last Days Bible study, followed by Prayer

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

### Women of HOPE

Meetings generally at HOPE on the second and fourth Saturdays every month from 10 am to Noon.

Next Meeting: June 27th  
at HOPE Church (with Bible study  
—See note below)

### Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

“Food of the Month”

Cereals and Nonperishable Breakfast Foods

The collection bin is in the foyer

## Prayer Requests:

Jordan Stevens, Kathy Herriman, Gene and Becky Hale, Ellie Tappan, Erin's parents & brother, Burton, Pastor Chris & Lori King and Jimmy King, Sandi Underwood family, Donna (Joan's friend), Patty Moyer & son, Brandon, Jerry Kinard, Alice Kinard (transplant possibilities), Tom & Donna Williams, Ron Clifton, Phil Parton, Krishana, Sam, Rachel & children, Joan Rollinson, Dianne Reinoso, Cindy, Barbara (stroke), HOPE Children & Youth ministries, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, Mallory family, Carol and Colin, Tommy, Skip, Loretta, Joan Summers, Janice Worthington, Donna Abel, Pastor Marty & Terry Duffell, Laura Bradshaw (stroke recovery), Tom Klein & family, Rev. Rob Westlund (shingles), Dave & Suku Rendell, EPC missionaries; the upcoming EPC General Assembly; all First Responders; future plans & growth (spiritual & numerical) for HOPE Church Raleigh!

### Next Sunday's Sermon:

**The Apostles Creed (Pt. 6)**  
(rf. Deut. 34:9-12; Josh. 1:1-9)  
Pastor Chris King

## Helping Hands Ministries for June 28, 2026

### Live Streaming

Diane Williams

### Soundboard

Rich Williams

### ProPresenter

Elizabeth Floyd

### Communion Preparation

Donna Williams

### Nursery

Lynn Joyner/Donna Williams

### Scripture Reading and Communion

### Assistant

Al Floyd

### Prayer Support

Ryan Hutchins

A (Belated) Father's Day Poem by Joan Rollinson:

### Happy Father's Day

Almighty God bestowed in Dad  
Endurance and true grit;  
While his little girl was growing up,  
She "often" sinned—did not admit.

Mom and Dad had fortitude,  
Prayed to God, I'd change my mood;  
They, amazingly, FINALLY, instilled in me,  
Took determination 'cause I refused to see.

They give Love, Laughter,  
Whether here or "There";  
DaD's are Do-ers  
Who share, love and care.

They never gave up,  
Followed His lead;  
I'm grateful for their trust in God;  
His amazing grace helped me succeed.

Thank you, Daddy, for your perseverance,  
Your one-liners I recall;  
You were always fun and caring,  
And believed God knew it all!

To prepare for next Sunday, click on the link and be blessed!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFO\\_87VBwNc&list=RDFFO\\_87VBwNc&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFO_87VBwNc&list=RDFFO_87VBwNc&start_radio=1)

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers  
Sound Board Volunteers  
Nursery Helpers

## Giving to the Ministry of HOPE:

Online via QR Code



Or on our website:

[www.hopechurchraleigh.org](http://www.hopechurchraleigh.org)

or by check made out to:

“Hope Church Raleigh” and dropped in plate during Communion

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### TLC Devotion

On Wed. June 24th at 10:30 am  
@ TLC

### HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else. **Donations of new meals to the freezer would be greatly appreciated. Contact Christina Johnston for details.**

### **Saturday, June 27th, 2026 @ 10 am**

Come join the Women of HOPE as they continue in their study based on the book, ***Becoming a Woman of Grace***, by Cynthia Heald  
If interested, contact Alice Kinard for further details.



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